No. 6

AN

EPISTLE,

CONTAINING

A SALUTATION TO ALL FAITHFUL FRIENDS,

A REPROOF TO THE UNFAITHFUL,

AND

A VISITATION TO THE INQUIRING,

IN A

SOLEMN FAREWEL

TO THEM ALL IN THE LAND OF MY NATIVITY.

By WILLIAM PENN.

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A Salutation to the Faithful.

YE are beloved of me above all the ſons and daughters of men, who have received and bowed to the bleſſed appearance of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt in your hearts, and that have not counted any thing dear for the teſtimony of his croſs and goſpel, but have unfeignedly loved and obeyed his light within, and not been afraid to confeſs it without: you that have not been offended in him, though the world hath not received him, but bitterly mocked and perſecuted his ſaving appearance; to you doth my

ſoul reach, in the love which many waters cannot quench, nor time nor diſtance wear away, beſeeching the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, to be with you, and bleſs you with his abundant goodneſs and mercy. Oh, Friends! go on, you are called to an high and heavenly calling, the trumpet hath given you a certain ſound; follow your captain, be valiant, fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, that you may finiſh your courſe with joy; a crown is at the end, a diadem that will never fade away, the reward of the righteous at the end of all his troubles.

Dear Friends, love the truth in your hearts, be inward to the Lord, that you may grow in the life and wiſdom of it; and keep all your meetings in the faith and power of God; and love and honour the brethren that labour in word and doctrine: be diligent in his work, and that will make you rich in the heavens that will never

paſs away. Have a godly care over your children and families, and let your converſation be in heaven, and the earth under your feet. Oh! ye that received the Truth for the truth's ſake, who have loved it above all, and for it left all, that being tried, fainted not, but endured; and who to this day have not ſought yourſelves, but the Lord, and have counted nothing dear, that you might lift up his name amongſt men: who being reviled, have bleſſed; and being perſecuted, have ſuffered; and being defamed, have yet entreated; and are to this day tempted, buffeted, and accounted by too many as the offscouring of the land; be not diſcomforted, but gird up the loins of your minds, be ſober, watch, pray and hope to the end; for through many tribulations are we to enter the reſt and city of God. And yet, what if I ſhould ſay, that the days of ſorrow and ſighing will even here have an end; and that the peace,

righteouſneſs and glory of the latter days are juſt at the door! Beloved friends, as clay is in the hands of the potter, ſo let us be in the hands of our God, ſo will he manifeſt himſelf through us, and confound the wiſdom and oppoſition of this world. Nothing can hurt us but our own unfaithfulneſs; for the God that hath called us, is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-preſent, and hath given to us that believe, the witneſs in ourſelves, which is the unerring way of the Lord; ſo that our religion is of Emanuel, God with us, who hath the words of eternal life. He that cured the ruler's ſon by his Divine preſence in his bodily abſence, he alſo is preſent with us in ſpirit, in the fire, in the water, by ſea, and by land, he worketh wonders upon both, who is glorious in holineſs, and fearful in praiſes, in the congregations of his children: in him I love you, in him I ſalute you, and in him I dearly bid you all fare-

wel. His grace, mercy and peace be with you all, and the bleſſings of his life and preſence for ever reſt upon you. Amen.

Your faithful friend and brother,

WILLIAM PENN.

A Reproof to the Unfaithful.

HOW long ſhall the ſpirit of the Lord ſtrive with you, O ye careleſs and unfaithful ones! who are convinced of the truth of God, and come to meetings, confeſs to the teſtimony, and profeſs it in the world, and are yet unſanctified and unregenerated, and ſo have no part nor lot in this bleſſed matter of life eternal! What can you hope for from the hand of the Lord at the hour of your death and day of your judgment? Will not God remember unto you the day

of your viſitation, his ſtrivings, his waitings, his long ſuffering; how often he would have gathered you, that you might have inherited ſubſtance? Awake, awake, ye ſenſual, ye earthly-minded profeſſors of the truth, that Chriſt Jeſus may give you life! for I may ſay with the apoſtle, and that weeping too, there are too many unworthy of the great favour and mercy of God in this day who under all their pretences to religion, walk in the way of thoſe, whoſe god is their belly, who glory in their ſhame, &c. who mind earthly things, purſuing uncertain riches, and truſting in their ſtore; if redeemed from ſcandalous things, yet abounding too much in more hidden evils, envy, covetouſneſs, high-mindedneſs, meddling in other folks matters, out of the watch, out of the croſs that crucifieth the fleſh, yet delivers the ſpirit to ſerve God in the newneſs of life. Oh! as one knowing the terrors of the

Lord, let me perſuade you, while it is to day, to hear his voice, his living word, that cleanſes the young man's way; and believe in the light whilſt you have the light, that you alſo may be the children of the light, in which the nations of them that are ſaved muſt walk, leſt it paſs away from you, and the night overtake you, in which the works of peace cannot be wrought. O friends! your doom will be moſt diſmal, your end the moſt terrible of all others, that are called, and would not make your calling ſure, that knew the Maſter's will, and would not do it: will not he make ſuch of the ſynagogue of Satan, who are not Jews inward, neither of that circumciſion that is of the ſpirit in the heart and ear, whoſe praiſe is not of men, but of God? For it is juſt with God, to give ſuch up to ſtrong deluſions, and to commit ſin with greedineſs, who hold the truth in unrighteouſneſs, and profeſs it in

their own ſpirits, not in the Spirit and power of God; whoſe tongues are their own, whoſe wills and affections are their own, and under the profeſſion of Truth, can give them their ſwing. Such as theſe become the ſubjects of Satan's devices, and too often by a looſe converſation, or high-mindedneſs and unſubjectedneſs, cauſe grief, and give great trouble to the churches of Chriſt: for many may never leave the profeſſion of Truth, that yet may be troublers of the peace of Jeruſalem here, and veſſels of wrath hereafter. Be therefore warned, ye fooliſh virgins, ye vain profeſſors of the Truth! In the fear and dread of God, I ſend this caution to you, that ye may repent, and do your firſt works; elſe be aſſured, that in the day of his winnowing, you ſhall go to the chaff, and the wind of his fury ſhall drive you from the joy of his preſence for ever: therefore receive my counſel in the love of God; be faithful to

his truth, wait and watch in it, that you may be delivered in the hour of temptation: it will tie your tongues, limit your deſires, bound your affections, order all your ſteps aright: it will make you humble, ſo God will teach you; and meek, ſo will he guide you in judgment, and clothe you with ſalvation. I have a travail upon my ſoul, and my ſpirit is pained for you! I would have nothing loſt, but the ſon of perdition: I would have you all gathered, and nothing caſt away that is called of God; yea, a greater than all would have all come to the knowledge of the Truth, as it is in Jeſus, and be ſaved. This I ſend you as a farewel to you, in the name and power of the God of my ſalvation, and in ſo doing am I clear of you all.

Your true friend,

WILLIAM PENN.

A Viſitation to the Inquiring.

YE are the workmanſhip of God as well as I, and he hath made us for an end of glory to himſelf; let us ſee, ſearch and try, how we anſwer it. Ye have ſouls as well as I, and you muſt give an account as well as I; for we muſt all die and come to judgment. Turn in therefore, and ſee how it ſtandeth betwixt you and your judge; for by Jeſus Chriſt, the light of the world, will God judge all men. Therefore with the light of Chriſt, which is within you, judge yourſelves, that you may not be judged. Put away the evil of your doings; love the light, come to it, walk in it, and it will give you a ſight of the ſpirit of this world, and the fruits of it, from the Spirit of God, and the fruits thereof; by which

you will receive an underſtanding of him that is true, whom if ye receive, you ſhall live in him that is true, and he will give you power to become the children of God, born not of fleſh and blood, but of the incorruptible ſeed, word and will of God. O hear his voice, that you may be his ſheep; let him go before you, and do you follow him, and he will give unto you eternal life. O ye hungry and thirſty ones, that want, ſeek and cry for eternal life! it is his light within that reveals life and immortality! And if it ſhould be ſaid, Can any good come out of Nazareth? Can ſuch a day of ſmall things bring ſalvation? I ſay, Oh, come and ſee; for we who have believed, have ſeen his glory to be that of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace, and full of truth: he is the good Samaritan, the phyſician of value; he cureth our diſeaſes, he healeth our breaches, he leads us in the ways of pleaſantneſs,

and in the paths of peace; there are riches in his reproaches, and a crown in his croſs. Remember who deſired eternal life, and what hindered! Therefore give up all when he calls, and follow him fully. Out of him the enemy is too ſtrong for you, but in him you are too ſtrong for the enemy; therefore wait in the light of Chriſt, and watch againſt him: this is painful to fleſh and blood, which muſt not inherit the kingdom; but it brings the ſoul into the liberty of the ſons of God, where the peace of God, and the joy of his ſalvation flow, as a pure river that is never dry. Oh! that you may have eternal life, that you may not miſs of your deſire through the ſubtle working of the enemy of your ſouls, that ſeeks to divert you from the right way of God by many ſtumbling blocks; but be not offended in him, that he may bleſs you: and remember, that all things are poſſible with him with

whom we have to do; for all power in heaven and earth is given him that hath enlightened you: therefore do not murmur, do not deſpond, do not preſume, but hearken to his voice, in whom the prince of this world hath no part, and he will give you power to reſiſt him: and remember, that to them that overcome, ſhall be given a new name, and they ſhall have right to eat of the tree of life, that ſtands in the midſt of the paradiſe of God. My God ſhed abroad his love abundantly in your hearts, to the love and obedience of the Truth, that you may all be ſaved in the day of the Lord, in whoſe viſiting love I bid you all farewel.

Your well-wiſhing friend,

WILLIAM PENN.

From the Downs,
the 30th of the Sixth month, 1682.

THE END.

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